

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 18, 20, 26-29 and 31-34 are pending, with claim 18 amended, and claims 35, 37-41 and 43-44 cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, by the present amendment. Claims 1 and 18 are independent.

In the Official Action, claims 35, 37-41 and 43-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; and claims 18, 20 and 33-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 26-27, 29 and 31-32 were allowed.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 18 is amended in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Claims 35, 37-41 and 43-44 are cancelled. Thus the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is moot.

Because the current amendment does not raise a new issue requiring further search and/or consideration, and merely places the claims in better form for appeal, Applicant requests entry of the amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

CONCLUSION

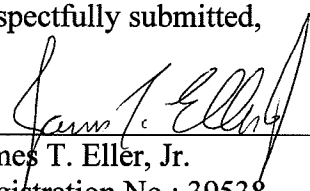
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco, Reg. No. 52,041, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: MAY 24 2011

Respectfully submitted,

By


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